

What is claimed is:

1 1. An interactive computer method for monitoring a project, the
2 method comprising the steps of:

3 defining authorized individuals who have access to an interactive
4 computer system providing data interchange;

5 opening a collaboration center for authorized individuals;

6 allowing access to the collaboration center by the authorized
7 individual;

8 defining one of a collaboration purpose and deadline; and

9 accepting input information from authorized individuals relating to the
10 collaboration.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

2 allowing all authorized individuals to perform one of, review, submit,
3 author, and change data and to interact with other authorized individuals in the
4 collaboration center.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 notifying all authorized individuals of a change in at least one of the
3 collaboration center purpose, deadline, plan, and input.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 accepting votes of authorized individuals for an element of the
3 collaboration.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 maintaining and displaying the status of each collaboration.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

2 providing the collaboration center with the capability of receiving

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3 documents attached to user responses.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
2 establishing a plan to meet the purpose.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 establishing a plurality of information modules to control at least one of
3 project planning, establishing and tracking project tasks, allowing access to
4 documents and information in any module, providing issue resolution, reviewing
5 project progress, tracking project finances, scheduling and attending meetings,
6 requesting information, reporting project data, controlling changes to prospect
7 documents and archiving project data.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of:
2 using electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and
3 the information modules.

1 10. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of:
2 linking each of the information modules for data interchange between
3 each module.

1 11. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of allowing access to
2 documents and information in any module comprises the step of:
3 assigning status states to each of the documents.

1 12. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of requesting
2 information further comprises the step of:
3 specifying the name of request recipients for defined organization
4 categories.

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1 13. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of requesting
2 information further comprises the steps of:
3 issuing a request for information;
4 designating a designated recipient for the request for information;
5 providing the designated recipient with the capability of one of replying
6 directly to the request for information, delegating the request for information to a
7 designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly
8 to the request for information; and
9 providing the designated recipient with the capability of delegating the
10 request for information to a designated delegate and solely receiving a reply from the
11 designated delegate.

1 14. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of reviewing project
2 progress further comprises the steps of:
3 issuing a request for project data review;
4 designating a plurality of designated recipients for the review request;
5 and
6 providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests
7 by one of in parallel from each designated review recipient and in series from all of
8 the designated recipients.

1 15. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
2 allowing each authorized individual to establish a personal preference
3 for receiving notifications of at least one of input and changes in one of project
4 documents, project tasks, project issues, change requirements, review requests,
5 finance changes, request for information, open collaborations, schedule meetings, and
6 project plans.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of selecting how to
2 receive notifications comprises the step of:
3 electing one of receiving notifications by electronic mail, with or

4 without attached documents, and the form of the electronic mail.

1 17. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of:
2 sending the notifications to each authorized individual by electronic
3 mail.

1 18. An interactive computer method for monitoring a project, the
2 method comprising the steps of:

3 establishing a plurality of information modules to control at least one of
4 project planning, establishing and tracking project tasks, allowing access to
5 documents and information in any module, providing issue resolution, reviewing
6 project progress, tracking project finances, scheduling and attending meetings,
7 requesting information, reporting project data, controlling changes to prospect
8 documents, establishing a collaboration center for planning and resolving a
9 collaboration purposes, and archiving project data.

1 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 using electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and
3 the information modules.

1 20. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 allowing each authorized individual to establish a personal preference
3 for receiving notifications of at least one of input and changes in one of project
4 documents, project tasks, project issues, change requirements, review requests,
5 finance changes, request for information, open collaborations, schedule meetings, and
6 project plans.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the step of selecting how to
2 receive notifications comprises the step of:
3 electing one of receiving notifications by electronic mail, with or
4 without attached documents, and the form of the electronic mail.

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1 22. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of:
2 sending the notifications to each authorized individual by electronic
3 mail.

1 23. The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
2 allowing all authorized individuals to perform one of review, submit,
3 author, and change data and to interact with other authorized individuals in the
4 collaboration center.

1 24. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 notifying all authorized individuals of a change in at least one of the
3 collaboration center purpose, deadline, plan, and input.

1 25. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 accepting votes of authorized individuals to one of the purposes and the
3 plan of the collaboration.

1 26. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 maintaining and displaying the status of each collaboration.

1 27. The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
2 providing the collaboration center with the capability of receiving
3 documents attached to user responses.

1 28. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 linking each of the information modules for data interchange between
3 each module.

1 29. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 allowing access to documents and information in any module; and

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3 assigning status states to each of the documents.

1 30. The method of claim 18 wherein the step of requesting
2 information further comprises the step of:

3 specifying the name of request recipients for defined organization
4 categories.

1 31. The method of claim 18 wherein the step of requesting
2 information further comprises the steps of:

3 issuing a request for information;

4 designating a designated recipient for the request for information;

5 providing the designated recipient with the capability of one of replying
6 directly to the request for information, delegating the request for information to a
7 designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly
8 to the request for information; and

9 providing the designated recipient with the capability of delegating the
10 request for information to a designated delegate and solely receiving a reply from the
11 designated delegate.

1 32. The claim 18 wherein the step of reviewing project progress
2 further comprises the steps of:

3 issuing a request for project data review;

4 designating a plurality of designated recipients for the review request;

5 and

6 providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests
7 by one of in parallel from each designated review recipient and in series from all of
8 the designated recipients.

1 33. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 allowing each authorized individual to establish a

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3 personal preference for receiving notifications of at least one of input and changes in
4 one of project documents, project tasks, project issues, change requirements, review
5 requests, finance changes, request for information, open collaborations, schedule
meetings, and project plans.

1 34. The method of claim 19 further comprising the steps of:
2 providing an electronic mail response capability for at least certain of
3 the requests and notifications issued in any of the information modules allowing an
4 authorized user to respond to the request and notification by direct electronic mail
5 reply; and
6 the information modules documenting the reply and any documents
7 attached to the reply in the appropriate information module.

1 35. The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:
2 allowing a user to attach documents to a request and notification.

1 36. An interactive computer apparatus for monitoring the progress
2 of a project, the apparatus comprising:
3 a computer network with operating software allowing access to project
4 data by authorized individuals using the computer network;
5 means for defining authorized individuals who are authorized to access
6 the project on the network;
7 means for creating a collaboration center;
8 means for allowing access to the collaboration center by authorized
9 individuals;
10 means for defining one of a collaboration purpose and deadline;
11 means for establishing a plan to meet the collaboration purpose; and
12 means for accepting inputs from authorized users to one of the
13 collaboration purpose, plan and deadline, over the computer network.

1 37. The computer apparatus of claim 36 further comprising:

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2 the operating software is contained in a central processor accessible by
3 each of a plurality of individual nodes.

3 a computer network with operating software allowing access to project
4 data by authorized individuals using the computer network;

means for defining authorized individuals who are authorized to access the project on the network;

7 means for planning the project:

⁸ means for establishing and tracking project tasks;

9 means for allowing access to project documents and information;

10 means for providing issue resolutions:

means for reviewing project progress:

12 means for tracking project finances:

means for scheduling and attending meetings between authorized

14 individuals:

15 means for requesting information;

16 means for reporting project data;

means for controlling changes to project documents and information;

18 and

19 means for archiving project data.